

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 725.]

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MAY 18, 1860.

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Mr. VANCE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred an application of the trustees of the Presbyterian church at Princeton, asking for compensation for damages done to said church during the revolutionary war, make the following report :*

The application, in the opinion of your committee, is eminently a just and proper one. From the evidence adduced before it, it is satisfactorily proven that during the early part of the war (on the 3d of January, 1777) the said church was taken possession of by the continental troops, and used as barracks till about the 15th of June following ; that on the 1st of October, of the same year, it was again taken possession of and occupied as a hospital by the troops for more than a year ; and that subsequently, until April, 1779, said church was almost constantly occupied by parties of troops, wagoners, &c. ; that in consequence of the occupancy of the church, as aforesaid, great damage was done to the building and other property.

It is further shown that, some time in the spring of 1779, Messrs. Enos Kelsey, Robert Stockton, and Thomas Stockton, distinguished officers of the revolutionary army, were appointed by Charles Petit, deputy quartermaster general of the army, to assess the damage done to the church aforesaid, by reason of its occupancy as an hospital and barracks, who, on the 30th day of April, 1779, made their award in writing, assessing said damages at £4,643 5s. 4d., which said award, dated as above, and signed by Enos Kelsey, Robert Stockton, and Thomas Stockton, accompanies the memorial of the applicants.

Your committee believe that no part of said sum has ever been paid to the trustees of said church, or their predecessors in office, and that no remuneration of any kind has been made for the damages sustained.

The above award was made in New Jersey currency, which at the time had so far depreciated as to be worth but £10 in the 100. Estimating it by this rule, it amounts to but the sum of \$2,320. This the committee believe should be paid, and accordingly report the accompanying bill.

